The Long Island
FISHERMAN

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FISHERMEN IN THE N.Y. AREA

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FRONT PAGE PHOTO

For the past two weeks, open, charter and private boats have been having a field day on cow bass off Sandy Hook, N.J. Everyone has their favorite method (live bunker, bunker spoons, surge tubes). One of the better cow bass catchers is Capt. Ronnie Leper, who helped our front page anglers get their outsized bass. On the left is Barney Gabier of the Bronx with a 45 lb. 8 oz. fish and Max Gruber of Middletown, N.J. with two bass in the high twenties. Photo courtesy of Henning's Fishing Station, Atlantic Beach.

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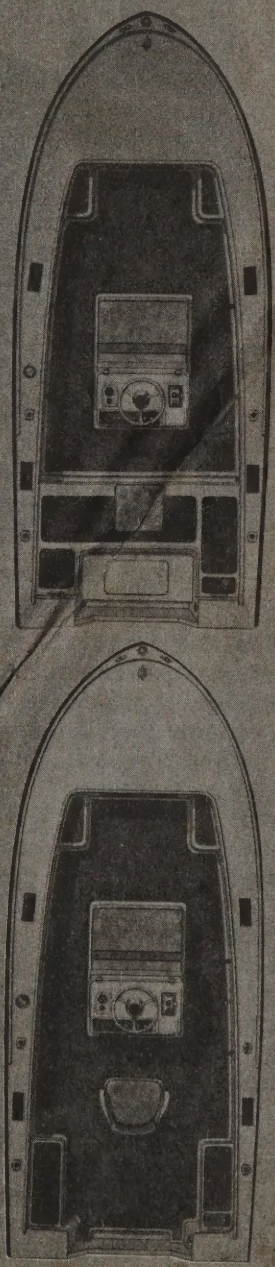

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Zero in on big stripers

The plastic eel in the larger sizes is a good lure to use from the surf or a boat for big stripers.

Catching big stripers consistently is not easy

by VLAD EVANOFF

I'VE WORKED at many Sport Shows answering questions about fishing and in this area a common query was, "I've fished mnay years for striped bass and the biggest I've ever caught was around 18 or 20 pounds!" In other words, a lot of anglers were complaining about catching mostly small school stripers rather than the big ones they really wanted.

I used to ask these anglers where they fished, when they fished, how they fished and what kind of lures or baits they used. Usually I could spot something they were not doing or something they were doing wrong.

If you want to catch big stripers you have to start off with the right attitude. You have to zero in on catching big stripers and go after the big ones and ignore or spend very little time catching the small ones. Of course, I don't mean that if you know the time or tide or conditions are not right for big stripers, that you shouldn't fish for the schoolies. Or if you run into some hot fishing for small bass that you should pass it up. Go ahead and catch a few. But if the time is ripe to catch the big bass, forget about the small ones and concentrate on catching the big ones. Too many anglers knock themselves out casting or trolling for small bass all day, then when the night tide is right for the big ones they are too tired to go out.

Catching big stripers consistently is not easy and you have to make sure everything is right from the beginning to the end. This means you have to have the proper tackle, lures, baits, rigs and learn how to use them. Your rods, reels, lines should be of good quality and have enough backbone and action to cast or troll heavy lures and handle fish in strong tides, currents and heavy surf. The trolling rod that is good for small stripers or small bluefish is not the one to use for big fish. The surf rod that you use to catch similar small fish is not the one to use for the cows. It's true that some big bass have been landed on light rods and light lines, but many more have been lost on such outfits. So why handicap yourself with such light tackle if you may hook only a few big fish during the season.

When it comes to lures the old adage, "Big lures for big fish holds true when applied to striped bass. Here again, I know all about the big 50 pound cow that was cuaght on a small lure meant for school stripers, but these are mostly exceptions and many more big ones have been lost when the small, light wire hooks on small lures straightened out. And many a big striper will rise and hit a big lure, whereas a small lure will be ignored.

When bunkers or herring or mackerel are in the water and big stripers are feeding on them, troll big bunker spoons or other big spoons on wire line. The big underwater plugs can also be used. If you cast from a boat use the big surface plugs such as the "Striper Atom" or other big swimmers or poppers up to 8 or 10 inches long. Make sure they have heavy hooks on them.. Surf anglers can also use these surface plugs and large underwater plugs.

Trollers should also use the big "tube" lures up to 15 or 16 inches long rigged with two hooks to catch big stripers. These come in various colors with the silver, amber, yellow, red and black the best ones to use.

Although bucktail or nylon jigs usually catch the smaller stripers, you can get the bigger ones with 7/0 or 8/0

→

Trolling from a boat is a good way to hook big stripers, especially in spots where they are present.

hooks and add a long strip of porkrind or squid and use them for big bass. The long nylon eels are also good.

Trollers and casters from a boat or the surf will find plastic eels deadly for big stripers. Get the larger sized and longer eels weighing 2 or 3 ounces for casting and use the still bigger ones for trolling. Grey, black, amber and natural color plastic eels are the ones to try.

Natural rigged eels are also excellent for big stripers when trolled or cast. Usually the sizes from 12 to 18 inches are best and they can be rigged with two hooks in sizes 7/0 or 8/0.

It is important when trolling or casting these baits to work them deep. Except, of course, surface plugs or when big stripers are seen chasing baitfish or feeding on top. Most of the time, however, big bass will be lying on or near the bottom and wire lines or regular lines with trolling weights will get the lures or baits down to them. And it is important to work these baits slowly to get the most response from big fish. Big stripers are lazy and won't move too far to chase a bait. The closer you can get the lure to the fish, the more chance you have of interesting it in striking.

The final "ace in the hole" for the boat angler and to a limited extent, the surf angler is a live bait. In fact, if you really want to improve your big striper catching score, stick to live baits most of the season. The problem here, of course, is to obtain the live baits when you need them and keep them alive until used. Live bunkers, herring, mackerel, eels, even a small blackfish will clobber big stripers more consistently than any lure made.

We covered the use of live eels in a previous column and most of the other live batis can be used the same way. They can be used from a drifting or anchored boat, off the beaches, rocky shores, in tidal rips, around bay and inlet bridges and where big stripers are feeding on bunkers or other live fish.

And to catch big stripers you have to do more night fishing, especially these days with heavy boat traffic, swimmers on the beaches and competition from other anglers. Daybreak and dusk are two other good fishing periods. So are the full moon and new moon tides when currents and rips are strong. Cloudy or stormy days with plenty of surf and turmoil are good times to fish. Of course, boat anglers often hook big stripers during the daytime too, if they troll deep near the bottom and know the holes where stripers lie.

Big stripers favor many of the same spots as the smaller ones such as rocks, reefs, bars and holes. Rocky points and jetty ends can be cast to or from. The mouths of inlets and rivers entering the ocean are good spots to try.

And certain spots around New York and Long Island and New Jersey are better than others for big stripers. Such as Sandy Hook. Romer Shoals, along the Rockaways, Atlantic Beach and Long Beach. Farther out on the island, the Hamptons and Montauk are noted for the big ones. Of course, if you can get to Rhode Island and Massachusetts, you have even more territory to fish for big stripers.

Patchogue Ponds

Freshwater by Don Vetter Feature

Any good road map of Long Island will show these three bodies of water

OPENING DAY of the trout season - on Long Island (or anywhere else for that matter) - is generally a mixed blessing. The weather is usually cold or wet and the productive spots unbelievably crowded.

As I drove by Bubble Falls pool last April 1st, the fishermen were so tightly packed, it was difficult to see the water. The dam at the south end of Hard's Lake (Southaven Park), where I decided to wet my first line of the new season, was almost equally dense with eager anglers.

Being somewhat of a loner by nature, I contented myself with three middling size brookies and departed for greener pastures. (My catch was about par for the course during the hour I spent there - with the exception of a really nice brown taken by a bearded sharp-shooter who shall remain nameless.)

Not feeling ambitious enough for the drive to Wildwood Lake (one of the most productive and underfished lakes on the island), I headed back to Patchogue and its three trout ponds.

Any good road map of Long Island will show these three bodies of water (dignified by the title 'lake') - West, East (or Swan) and Canaan. While West Lake receives a substantial stocking of trout each spring, it is difficult to fish, being almost completely surrounded by private property. I will, therefore, concentrate on the two latter ponds.

Swan (East) and Canaan are considered by most Long Island fresh-water men as classic examples of put and take trout fishing; they receive a fair amount of play in the weeks immediately after stocking and are almost deserted for the rest of the year. You rarely hear of large trout (such as our tidal stream produce) caught in them. Their chief attraction to many, is that they offer enough fishable shoreline to provide a modicum of elbow-room.

Swan Lake, with its south shore fronting a used car lot and an auto-body shop (whose operators seem to feel that the pond is a logical place to dispose of old fenders and other assorted junk - devil take ecology), does not present an inspiring sight.

Aesthetic considerations aside, this is a fertile body of water in which trout who survive the spring onslaught of casual fishermen, can exhibit a remarkable growth rate. For example, a May 1970 stocking of 8" brown trout had reached an average length of 10" by September of the same year.

Brook trout, which usually constitute the bulk of the two stockings (one before opening day and another around May 1), do not seem to survive well here; holdovers are rarely caught. Browns, on the other hand can reach a ripe old age - I took a twenty-one incher in June of 1969.

Besides the stocked trout, Swan Lake holds a population of native fish, including some of the largest white and yellow perch I have ever caught on Long Island (not to mention an over-abundance of grass pickerel which generally make a nuisance of themselves).

Having begun my trout fishing in the clear, cold streams of Vermont, the brook trout has always held first place in

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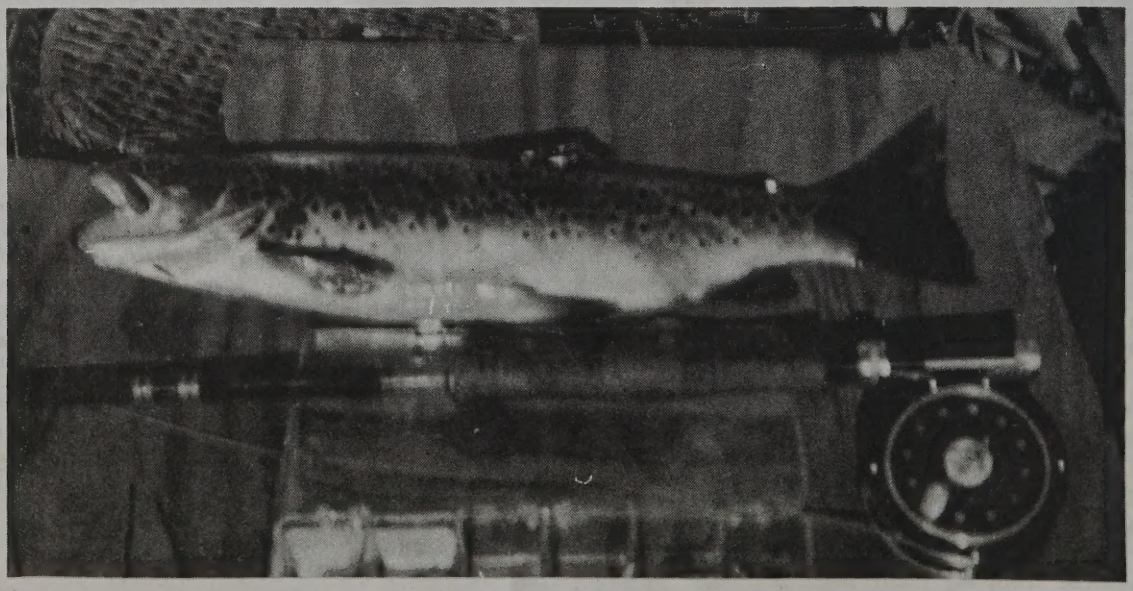

Brown: Swan Lake, June 1971

Brookies: Canaan Lake, September, 1971.

my heart. While he may lack the brown's adaptabiltiy, sagacity and longevity, he is the handsomest and best eating fish I know. Not even a true trout (genus salmo) but rather a char (salvelinus), he is the only 'trout' native to the north-east.

Perhaps this is the reason I prefer Canaan Lake to the other Patchogue ponds. Here holdover brookies can and do attain respectable size. Whether the water remains colder during the summer or is better oxygenated, I do not know.

At the north end, Canaan is divided by a road/culvert, the small upper portion being preferred by most fishermen, especially the fly-rod fraternity. The west shore of the lower lake is generally less heavily fished and produces the largest number of decent-sized fish. (See photo of two nice brookies caught here by author - September '71)

As to fishing methods, I have found the fly-rod to be the most effective method for all Long Island fresh-water fishing, with the possible exception of bass. There is a rumor rife (probably perpetuated by die-hard spin-fishermen) that flies are not as effective on the larger trout as other methods. I have never found this to be the case, provided you follow a few basic rules. A large nymph of somber hue (gray, brown or black), worked low and slow or better still, dead-drifted if there is enough current to carry it along, will turn the trick.

For the incurable spinning man, try a salt-water killie (large enough to discourage the small fry). Fish it without addition of either shot or float; simply lip-hook and slowly retrieve (with plenty of pauses to let the killie swim about).

Although I'm no purist (I fish bait often), the fly-rod offers an additional advantage. Fly-caught trout are less likely to be injured than those which take a bait. The smaller ones may then be released to become next year's keepers.

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A Day At Moriches

by RICHARD GELFOND

IT WAS NINE O'CLOCK at night when I first decided I wanted to go fishing. I phoned two friends and we decided to try East Moriches. The decision was difficult as to what to try for because so many species of fish are now being caught. The choice was between flounders, fluke, blowfish, weakfish, and bluefish, which are plentiful in Moriches Bay at this time of year. After some discussion, we decided to try for both fluke and flounder. We preferred the fluke, but felt an off day would force us over to flounder fishing.

We then went outside and loaded up the car for the next morning's expedition. I packed a Garcia medium action rod with a Penn reel for the fluke fishing. For the flounders, I brought out my Diawa fresh water rod and reel outfit, and a tacklebox full of supplies.

We were all in bed early because we wanted to get an early start the next morning. It was difficult falling asleep because we were all excited in anticipation of the next morning's journey. After finally falling asleep, the next sound I heard was a loud buzz. I shut the alarm and looked at the clock which read 4:00, the perfect time to awaken for a big day on the water.

At 4:15, my firends and I met and were ready to leave. We headed east from our starting point in Plainview, down the Long Island Expressway. After getting off at exit 69, we went south until Main St., in East Moriches. Once in town, we followed the signs and arrived at our destination, Tadsen's Fishing Station.

I went inside to rent a boat while my firends unloaded the supplies from the car. When the owner asked me what type of bait I desired, I thought for a moment. I decided upon some live killies (for fluke), worms (flounders), and squid (can be used for either).

After loading the boat with our equipment, we placed our 18 horsepower Johnson on the boat's transom, checked our supplies, and prepared to shove off. We had decided to go for the fluke first since they frequently will strike in the morning.

The sky began to brighten in what was an extremely overcast day. As one person drove the boat, my friend and I began to set up our hooks. I opened my tackle box and found a fluke rig. This consists of a fairly large hook at the end of a leader, with two shiny pieces of metal just above it. I baited the hook by putting on a piece of squid first and then a killy afterward. The killy should be hooked in its mouth. The hook then gives the appearance of the killy chasing the squid to eat it.

Ken Mannion, of Plainview, shows off a days catch in the Moriches.

After I was all baited up, the boat was brought to a stop, about a mile off the Coast Guard Station. Then we just began to drift and let our lines overboard. The current moved our boat and therefore the line. This gives the bait an appearnace of movement. The fluke sees the moving bait and strikes it. We tried drifting for a while to no avail so we decided to troll. We put the engine on and we went against the current for about an hour, and still caught nothing. As we sat and waited for a bite, a light rain began to fall. It got progressively harder until we had to go in and look for shelter.

We headed towards the Coast Guard Station and we noticed several fishermen in rented boats heading to a pier in front of the station. We saw these anglers head under the dock and tie onto the support poles. We followed suit and tied up under the pier. The rain didn't let up for a while and I was getting bored, so I decided to try my luck fishing. I put a piece of squid on a flounder hook and dropped it below the boat.

Within a matter of seconds, I felt a tugging on the line. When I brought it in, a nice size eel was on the end. Everyone in our boat then baited their hooks and we had six eels in the boat in ten minutes. Eventually, however, the eels stopped hitting and the rain began to let up. We all decided that we had done enough fluke fishing for the day, and decided to try flounders.

We headed out of the pier and towards Buoy 5. Right around Buoy 6, as we were passing by, we noticed three fishermen, each reeling in a flounder. We then saw these same men chumming. We noticed the direction of the tide and decided that it would be a good idea to anchor behind them, right in the chum slick.

I had my bait on my hook within moments. Just thirty seconds after I tossed my hook and sinker in the water, I felt a tug. I pulled up quickly, reeled

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"Courtesy Is Dead"

By Dick Mermon

COURTESY IS DEAD, LONG LIVE IGNORANCE. The long reign of courtesy is over.

I believe it finally died last Monday morning on the west bar of Jones Inlet, on Long Island. It has been dead for a long time on the road for motor vehicle operators, but now, it has passed on to parts unknown on the water.

The incident that finally put the death blow to courtesy came as I chummed for striped bass, about eight o'clock in the morning. After the waters took a hard workout on the weekend, I felt that a Monday would bring only true courtesy sportsmen out to fish. I positioned my boat about seventy yards off the west bar, about half way out of the inlet so that the outgoing tide would take my clam-belly chum the length of the sand bar towards the tip and draw the bass down to the boat. Feeling safe and secure from any oncoming waves that may build up and dump into the boat, I purposely situated it this distance from the beach of the bar and that I would not be disturbed by any other boat or speed demon that might approach later on. I then proceeded to spoon out the chum soup. About ten minutes is all it took to do its job, and the first fish was in the boat. All of a sudden, out of nowhere, came a white 24 or 26 foot skiff, with three men aboard. The skiff plowed between the sand bar and myself at full throttle, bouncing over the waves as it hit the almost cresting breakers broadside. Then without any thought or consideration, but into my chum line about sixty yards in front of me and then anchored a hundred yards or so off to my left and at the tip of the bar which I was chumming into. As they were going by me, I shook my head in disgust and yelled at them that I was chumming, but they gave me a few hand signs and a few choice words which I cannot mention. I did not or would not have minded if they planned to anchor where they did but the cutting of my chum line and the side they rammed up on me was uncalled for. These three could have used the open inlet to my left and then come to s spot where they did stop. I feel that it si just plain ignorance or even selfishness on their part. Who is this person, in a Boston Whaler, who is fishing on the bar where they want to be; how dare he be there.

I honestly believe that they did not know what or how to fish for striped bass and how spooky these fish are when in a chum slick. All it would have taken was a little common sense and thinking on their part and we all would have had a good day. As a matter of fact, they stayed anchored for about forty-five minutes and then took off back into the inlet.

Maybe a little education in courtesy on the water should be given as other courses are. There are no such courses so a little common sense and fish knowledge is all it takes to know the right from the wrong way. It is not only fishermen that don't think at times, but boat owners who do not wet the line are at times inconsiderate as well. These days on Saturdays and Sundays one has to get out early and get back into the dock before eight o'clock in the morning or the enjoyment of fishing would be gone. This does not mean that everyone who operates a boat or fishes is inconsiderate. In fact, there are more good deeds done on the water than faulty ones. It is just that the bad always shows up more than the good and lasts a lot longer in ones mind. Not only have incidents occurred here in this locale, I have run into them everywhere there was water, boating and fishing.

Last April, my family and myself with two other families went to the Florida Keys for a fishing vacation. There, the vastness of the ocean is great. We took three 16' Boston Whalers down and decided to fish as a group, a family in each Whaler. We anchored about a mile off the shore this one afternoon, in about 12 to 15 feet of water, in a triangular pattern, about fifty yards from each other. This location was a particularly good spot as it has a hole in the center of a reef and the current runs through it all the time, and best of all, it was off the beaten track from any boat traffic. For some unknown reason a sixty-five foot yacht came from the ocean towards us and then continued right through us, as though we were a magnet to it. The boat never slowed down, and even though we were all safe, the wake gave us a good rocking. Her name was the Calypso IV, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Here, a boat that is handled by a captain, you would think there would be a little more consideration for smaller craft, but as I said, this lack of courtesy is everywhere.

Several years ago, fishing out in the Ambrose Light and the 17 Fathoms area for tuna, I actually saw a large freighter come off its course and turn into the fleet of fishing boats. That day several of these boats had to cut their anchor lines nad get the hell out of the way of this nut at the wheel. I know this for a fact as we took the wash from her. Yes, we were wrong for being anchored in the shipping channel, but that did not give the captain the right to do this. Several other ships veered off course for the fleet.

Back to the courtesy of the fellow fisherman, there it only takes a little common sense. Maybe some of the following can be used as helpful hints in the future. I know that everyone is not perfect and if we were all unfaulty, we would be gods, as God is the only perfect one. At times I slip up on my ability to be courteous on the water and I know that it is not thinking that causes it.

First of all, if you have a large boat or even a small one that throws a big wake in low water, slow it down, even if there is no speed limit posted. Those rowboat fishermen will give you a glad smile.

Approaching someone who is anchored is done from up current area, slowly, so as not to cause too much noise in the water.

Approach feeding fish, which are on the surface, with caution. Never run through a school as to scatter them or spook them down. Work around the school, circle them and you will stay with them as long as they feed, giving everyone a chance at them.

Use the right opening under the bridges, especially if there are boats to the pilings fishing under them. Better still, slow down as not to cause too much wake for them. Remember, someday you might be tied there fishing and some hot head will do the job on you.

Watch out for fishermen that are chumming for bass or weakfish. If you

Cont. on page 16

Strictly Casting —— *by Vince Guaglianone*

The Right Feeling, The Wrong Move

ONE TIME in mid-town Manhattan just past a clear-sky noon, as I walked the crowded and sputum-flecked streets and was crossing a curb where a rain-puddle lingered, I got that feeling from a wind that ruffled the dirty puddle. Can you imagine that real feeling in a place like this?

It was July's second week and so the southwest wind was nothing unusual. But this was 1969 and, as far as I knew, there had been no great showing of late springtime stripers at West End, Jones Beach. The feeling seemed against reason; even against the sticky heat which is due I think to the special climate caused by skyscraper cities.

The real feeling crested to a sudden decision. I would go. One of my several bosses of that time heard of my fit of debilitating nausea. Over the phone Martha heard how she might meet me in our apartment - ready the gear - we're going . . . Over two hours from Fun City we were finally crossing the Meadowbrook Bridge and into a cool breeze after a breakneck drive on the highways.

I had figured - figuring is not a feeling - I had figured for the old Creek-spot on Fire Island Inlet. "Look," said Martha, pointing out her window. And slowing over the Meadowbrook Bridge I saw large flocks of terns down at the water, despite a continuous stream of boats. Each flock was like a white and misty wheel, rotating but stationary over stretches of water. Yet some flocks were moving off, slow, from beside the bridge to amid that large basin of water west of the bridge. Incredible. The decision quickly was to work the fast rip behind the West End Coast Guard Station. It was the top of a falling tide.

You know, that day I'd grabbed a cheap, two-piece, 8-foot spaghetti rod (we lived in an apartment building at this time); an old broken Heddon reel with old 12-pound test line; and lures willy-nilly. (I had figured on small blues at Fire Island Inlet.)

Anyway, when we reached the wet sand edge that feeling of mine found its home in a stupendous sight. Sporadically, here and there, pods of 6 and 7 bass at once would break out porpoising from the central water, sometimes two or three such pods at once; and punctuated by an outcry from Martha against the background-screeches of the terns. Damn, that they favored the mid-bay. Those stripers were big enough to look, from THAT distance, big as your forefinger. Boats, an incessant parade, mostly going fishing, were speeding by and toward Jones Inlet. How could they not be aware of these fish? Bass I had seen breaking like this before; but never before amongst many noisy speeding boats.

Pushing out to water up to my chest, I started casting a Shorty Hopkins vainly for the extra distance. It wasn't half extra enough. After an hour the distant lunkers disappeared and I waded back toward shore, looking toward Martha who sat, watching wisely, on Salmon's great bleached log . . .

'Salmon' was an old surfman and a Long Islander who had retired and moved out to California. Yet every summer he returned here in his Volks Bus to fish only here at this rip where he didn't have to walk hard from his mobile home to the first cast. So he got the name, 'Salmon'; and as much for a rather melancholy air about him as for his amazing yearly migration . . . Here the slight thin tribesman would work the tumultuous rip for about forty minutes, and then wade back to rest on that sea-bleached log; puffing on his pipe before going back out again. But it impressed me how diligently Salmon would move along the diagonal rip-edge, starting upstream from the rip-cause; wading and casting as he moved downstream slowly; and then along back up again. Fishing with a very light rod and small lures and a small Swiss reel, he caught mostly "little rats" which he released. But anyway he didn't want stripers over 10 pounds any more: "Too tough," Salmon would intone in his surprisingly gruff, deep voice; "dry, like overcooked chicken. Five pound bass, and small blues are better. Little blues are delicious."

Salmon, in his youth - which was long before my time - had also fished the Breezy Point Jetty; and he was one of those live-eel, cow-killers of the Rockaway jetties in the 1940's: "That, was fishin'."

This day Salmon had not yet come down to the rip when, after my futile hour of excited casting, I decided to go work it myself (I had been way to the right of the rip-cause in smooth strong water, casting toward that distance where the bass were breaking). Nothing now showed anywhere on the flat blue water and the terns had scattered. Now only an occasional boat went zooming through the rolling channel beyond the broad rip.

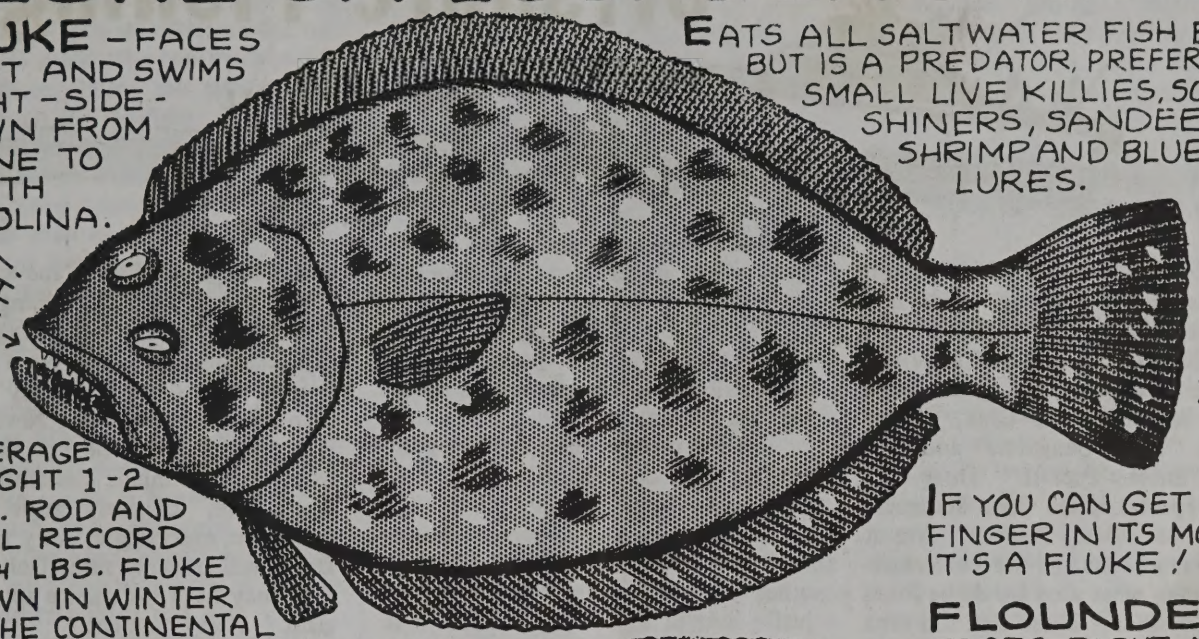
As I walked along the shore and was about to re-enter the glass-clear water for the rip, there suddenly burst out 10 feet in front of me a big flat fish: whether fluke or skate I cannot tell; it was so brief a glimpse. After it, unmistakably, was that great broad tail of the striped one. Trembling, I dropped the Hopkins out into the near-edge spot of the rip and, immediately, immediately it took off in the guzzle of a big striper. All I could do was run along downstream to save the line. A quick instant I cupped my hand over the crochetty reel's spool, and let go for there was no slowing this fish of

Cont. on page 14

FLUKE & FLOUNDER THERE IS A DIFFERENCE

FLUKE – FACES LEFT AND SWIMS RIGHT – SIDE-DOWN FROM MAINE TO SOUTH CAROLINA.

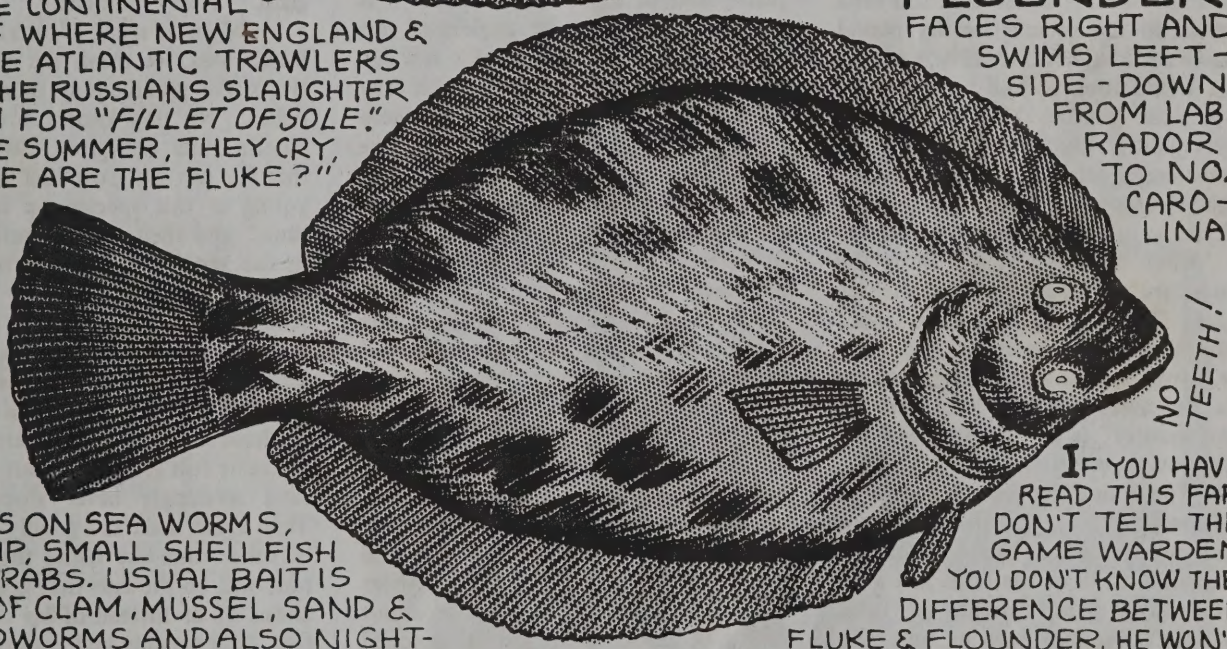
EATS ALL SALTWATER FISH BAIT BUT IS A PREDATOR, PREFERRING SMALL LIVE KILLIES, SQUID, SHINERS, SANDEELS, SHRIMP AND BLUEFISH LURES.



AVERAGE WEIGHT 1-2 LBS. ROD AND REEL RECORD 21¼ LBS. FLUKE SPAWN IN WINTER ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF WHERE NEW ENGLAND & MIDDLE ATLANTIC TRAWLERS AND THE RUSSIANS SLAUGHTER THEM FOR "*FILLET OF SOLE*." IN THE SUMMER, THEY CRY, "WHERE ARE THE FLUKE?"

IF YOU CAN GET YOUR FINGER IN ITS MOUTH, IT'S A FLUKE!

FLOUNDER FACES RIGHT AND SWIMS LEFT-SIDE-DOWN FROM LABRADOR TO NO. CAROLINA.



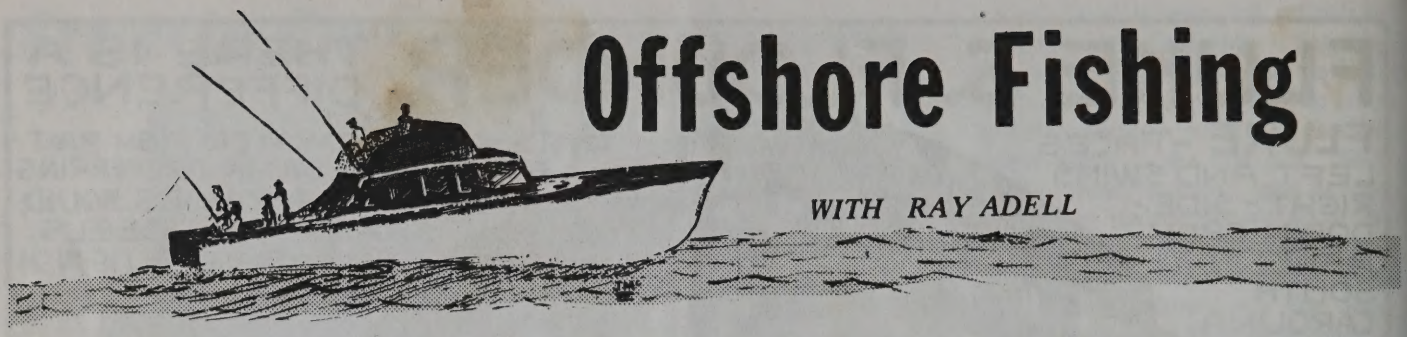
FEEDS ON SEA WORMS, SHRIMP, SMALL SHELLFISH AND CRABS. USUAL BAIT IS BITS OF CLAM, MUSSEL, SAND & BLOODWORMS AND ALSO NIGHT-CRAWLERS AND GARDEN WORMS. SPAWNS IN THE BAY AT 5 DEGREES ABOVE FREEZING. AVERAGE WEIGHT ONE POUND.

IF YOU HAVE READ THIS FAR, DON'T TELL THE GAME WARDEN YOU DON'T KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FLUKE & FLOUNDER. HE WON'T BUY IT! AND IF IT'S PHIL OBENAUER-HE'S LEAN & MEAN AND LONG & STRONG. DON'T RESIST – GO QUIETLY!

WARNING TO ANGLERS

THE 14-INCH LIMIT ON FLUKE IS BEING STRICTLY ENFORCED. YOU CAN BE FINED UP TO $60. FOR A SHORT FLUKE PLUS $25. FOR EACH ADDITIONAL SHORT FLUKE PLUS COURT COSTS – *SECTION 319-2A OF THE N.Y. STATE CONSERVATION LAW* – IN EFFECT SINCE 1965.

By FRED GUARDINEER AT THE REQUEST OF THE N.Y. STATE DEP'T. OF EN. CON.



Offshore Fishing

WITH RAY ADELL

THE FIRST TUNA of the season was caught off Fire Island last Wednesday, June 12. Matter of fact, several fish were caught that same day aboard private boats run by members of the Babylon Tuna Club, Charlie Feshett's "Three Daughters" and Pete Reihn's "Sneeky Peet II." Three days later Freeport Captain Carm Marinacio put the boat "Betty Ann III" over at least one more tuna and the reel screamed the run of what soon would be Jones Inlet's first tuna. These first run tuna were all in the general twenty pound class, were caught extremely early as Long Island tuna go and were in relatively close inshore, 135 to 145 foot water depths, which would put them somewhere around 30 to 35 miles offshore. Anyhow, we have a tuna season with us.

When one goes tuna fishing the chances are usually against him catching a tuna. To be sure, some experienced offshore fishermen, professional or amateur, have substantially better chance than the average yokel, but even the "sharpshooter" is at the caprice of the swift moving, erratic and mind boggling tuna. To say nothing about the vagaries of the weather, which will average out generously speaking, bad enough half of the time to twist the odds just a bit more in favor of not catching any tuna. When considerations such as time, distance travelled and money spent are contemplated in light of the odds, it just has to be up there on the top of things where the reasons for involvement have to be looked for elsewhere than in the apparent quest to catch a fish.

Tuna are far roaming nomads of the open ocean. The sea is their home and the sea has fascinated man since the beginning of time. Our species has always sought adventure of one kind or another on the sea. In a time of soul seering, almost unbearable population pressures, technocratic subjugation, and oh so little opportuntiy for open space and adventure, this vast home of the tuna, the open ocean, still beckons to some of us. Conformed by our society sufficiently so that we do not run off to sea instead of supporting our family with our sweat and our presence, some of us still eke out a compromise by going tuna fishing.

Then there is the quelling of the hunting instinct that still simmers in some men. Tuna are hunted more than they are fished for. There is less involvement with finesse than exists in other forms of angling and more than just a hint of brute force. While it is true enough that most anglers of this intent try to match their tackle and line to the approximate size of the fish they think they will catch, this for all practical purposes is impossible. The range of variables in size is gargantuan in relation to other forms of fishing. Seven to seven hundred pounds and anything in between and sometimes even more and less, so fishing appropriate sized tackle is at best a relative guess. The chances of having the next fish that strikes closer to seven than to seven hundred pounds are great so more tackle suitable to the smaller end of the scale is usually fished, but many anglers, if not most anglers, have a larger rig or two out, and small fish frequently take the lure attached to the heavy tackle and huge fish sometimes take the lighter outfit and nothing can be done about that. In any case the gimbal notched rod butts sit locked securely in the rod holders, rigid sentries pointing up and aft from whose tips trace the lines to the swift feathers, cedar jigs or the baits dancing or swimming in the boat's wake, up close, usually well within sight. The psychodynamics of tuna fishing is a hunter who tricks another hunter into attacking him. The red stained deck and fish box after the gaffing finale is bloody testimonial to the ritual. (Tuna are only infrequently eaten by the sportfishermen who catch them .)

As already mentioned, the potential size of the quarry is relavent to the thesis that the latent hunting instinct in some men is at least in part responsible for the endeavor. Offshore fishing is indeed "big game" fishing and when tuna fishing one is not really fishing only for tuna. Let's get one thing straight. The sky's the limit out there. No it does not happen every day. It is really no more than a remote possibility. Nevertheless, it is possibility sufficient to lurk somewhere in the mind, constantly, when "out there," of every single offshore fishermen, everywhere, every time, that David will possibly meet Goliath, that Jack may have his chance to slay that giant - - at any moment.

When we speak of tuna in the Long Island area, we mean the bluefin tuna. He is the grand-daddy of all tuna-like fishes. No one knows how large the bluefin tuna can grow. We do know that he can outgrow half a ton. The young of this species we call "school tuna," and they are thus referred to be in the tens, twenties, fourties and the eighties, whether they are located in schools or not. Generally the smaller the fish the greater the inclination to school. Somewhere in the neighborhood of upwards of a hundred pounds a school tuna becomes a giant tuna. It's the same fish grown up. But the bluefin tuna seemingly never stops growing. Then again there is a goodly population of other tuna-like fishes that, likely as not, will be the fish that grabs the lure ahead of or instead of big cousin bluefin. The oceanic and common bonitos are the most prevalent of these most years. The false albacore is usually quite abundant for a short period in late summer and early fall, and rarely, but still possibly the long finned or true albacore and the yellowfin or Allison tuna round out the members of the tuna tribe that swim in any given season with something like regularity off Long Island. In a family all by himself (in some ways in a class all by himself, too) the multi-hued dolphin, handsomest in many ways of all oceanic species, gobbles up tuna feathers and skipping balao baits as readily as do the tuna-like fishes, and for the same reason. Driftwood and other floating objects more

→

often than not mark, if not the precise location of the moment, than at least the general vicinity one is likely to be in. Then, of course, there are the billfishes. No angler who continues to pursue offshore fishing can ever become blase about the billfishes. The blue marlin, immortalized by Hemmingway, is only an infrequently encountered giant in Long Island waters. But we know he may be there. His distant cousin, the broadbill swordfish, grows about as big. As is the case with the bluefin tuna, we know only the maximum limits of these species by the accident of our encounters with them. Like the bluefin tuna, we know that these two giant billfish attain weights of at least somewhat more than half a ton. The white marlin is large at a hundred pounds and he is our most abundant billfish. The word abundant, however, is used relatively here only in relation to the other billfish and it is never in actuality anything like "abundant."

Lest any as yet uninitiated offshore angler who may be happening to read this think that itemization of the aforementioned glamour fish of the seas is tantamount to routinely having them pounce upon lures when put astern as soon as the boat is assumed to trolling speed, let him think again. It does of course happen this way sometimes. And sometimes the lines whiz this way and that all day and the cockpit is one mass of twisting, flipping, bloody fish. Sometimes. If you fish for tuna (and of course the others should they come your way) a lot, most of the time, you'll come home with nothing. So as we said back in the beginning of this, we think the answer lies deeper and some of our personal ponderings in this regard have been touched upon above.

This Sunday I will keep a date with Carm Marinacio of Freeport. Carm is an old friend who spent most of his working years as the captain of a charter boat. His specialty was tuna fishing. Now he runs a private boat, is still, I believe, making some very good rigs he distributes to local tackle shops who sell them to a different generation of fishermen. We were supposed to go way offshore, to the Hudson Canyon if need be, to try to bring back the first tuna. The first tuna have already been caught, Carm himself having brought back the first one to the Freeport dock, ahead I guess of when he really thought we would have a good crack at it. It doesn't matter to me that the first tuna has been caught. I really have no designs on the first tuna.

MORICHES
Cont. from page 8

in my line, and saw a nice size flounder at the end. My fishing partners quickly plunged their lines in the water. They each caught a flounder within a minute. Within five minutes, ten keeper size fish were boated. Feeling somewhat encouraged at the easy catch, we dropped out more lines. We formed drop lines with two ounce sinkers attached and tossed them overboard. The fish bit on the drop lines as readily as on the rods. We couldn't get the fish off the hooks fast enough to keep up with the amount of flounders biting. Within twenty minutes, including throwbacks, thirty fish had been caught.

I was in the porcess of taking one flounder off the hook when I saw my drop line move a little. I left the fish on the hook, grabbed the dropline, and gave a little tug. It felt like a big fish on the end but I wasn't sure how big. While bringing in the line I remarked to my friends, "I sure have a nice flounder here." It turned out to be a nice fish, but by no means a flounder. What I hooked was a 2 lb. baby sandshark.

After carefully removing the hook, I threw the fish overboard and went back to flounder fishing. Meanwhile, my friends kept up their swift apce and were boating many fish. We were all very thankful for the man chumming in front of us. In an hour we had run out of bait so we had to return to the fishing station for more. In the time period from 8:15 to 9:30 we had caught 65 fish (35 keepers).

After picking up another dozen worms we returned to Buoy 6. To our dismay though, the seas had gotten rough and the winds kicked up. We tried fishing and with no success and so we decided to move. We boated down to Buoy 29 and anchored.

After waiting for a while, we caught some flounder. We found out that the flounder were spotty in this area.

It was late so we decided to call it a day and head in. On the way in we began to place the fish in a cooler to be cleaned at home. In entirety our days catch totaled 74 flounder, 6 eels and a sandshark – not a bad days catch by any means. After returning home we sat back and began to plan our next trip to the Moriches.

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STRICTLY CASTING
Cont. from page 10

such terrific vim. With sporadic surges it hauled on and out with an ease of its weight. Running through the water, with Martha shouting after me (why didn't she cast?) I distinctly recall thinking how, This, is progress. What a difference from walking the sputum-flecked pavement in Fun City.

The shore's bottom here was, is, pocked with its own jagged slabs of concrete and pieces of pipe. It is very difficult to just wade it. But sometimes, able to leap along fast I could regain much line by reeling in as I moved with the fish. Yet I was never able to get in front of this fish (that is: to maintain a shore-position with line straight out between rod and fish, instead of line diagonally out). Twice I was slowed by the hard crap on the bottom. Intervals of spool pressure, patting my hand over the spool, did not slow the fish. I dared not pressure this rotten line too much . . . Weary from the long day (and probably from the sudden and extended excitement) I began to lose patience. Also we had reached near the big old pier where the water is deeper, and unfamiliar to me (I knew that the other side of this pier has an extremely sheer drop, hard by the shore). The fish had not once slowed, or halted. Her motion from the moment of contact was all one continuous sweep leftward and out, with those occasional added surges. I've caught many and lost many, but never had I had a bass on so long without its ever slowing. (It could take you ten minutes to walk along the piece of coast I had just covered with a struggle.) Now, fearing this new gleaming stretch of water of which I knew only that it was deeper, I decided to halt and for two seconds cupped my hand over the spool. That was it. The wrong move. The line parted like sewing thread.

Did you ever think about taking up golf? Or bowling? It was a long splashing walk back to where silent Martha had ceased sprinting after me alongshore (she was carrying my gaff). A long walk together back to Salmon's log without a word . . . The water here is so clear it could almost be 1945 . . . The sun, lowering, emblazoned a fleet of cumulus clouds in the dry azure . . . There was a silence and a first of the gnats . . . I tied on a white Atom popper, mechanically. With feet of lead I waded back out to the rip that was dancing by without a bird over it. I casted; turned the handle twice while the current swung the lure down leftward, and upon a heart-zinging eruption of water we were off again. Another striper. But I knew well what this baby was. It had the vim yet not that surging weight to it. Also the tide had fallen to its third hour and there was little water 50 feet out for the lashing fish. This one's head I could turn. That accomplished, the teen bass then tried to finesse me two minutes or so behind the submerged ledge under the rip's diagonal line. Then it gave up. Having been able to stay in front of this fish during its run, I then simply waded straight out to it and gently pushed the rod forward; thusly 'picking up' the fagged fish from the ledge. Then I drifted the exhausted striper back to shore.

Martha was casting now. And also old Salmon had come down while I was half finished with this second bass; and his old legs found vigor jumping to the rip, even though bass over 10 pounds are "dry, like overcooked chicken." Pete Fuhrmann, who had seen me lose the big one, had also arrived and with his little boy calling, "Daddy, daddy, I'm fishing too!"

That white popper I left down in the throat of my catch and quickly tied on a floater Rebel: the usual lure for these fast shallows even at high tide; for a jig would easily snag unless it finds a maw on the first cast.

With the approach of dark, a 7-lb. schoolie took the Rebel; and now the water was really too low so we all waded back to shore . . . The thing to do was to work the great sandbars in Jones Inlet now at this low tidal stage. But Pete, with his child, had no time for it tonight; Martha could never take the rotten mosquitoes on the way out to the bars; I was exhausted, and depressed by the thought of the work-day tomorrow; and Salmon had only two spots he fished in these his last years, spots where he could get to decent gamefish without having to tax his heart: one in California for bonito; and here at the West End Coast Guard Station for stripers and blues. (Owing to the dredging, however, it hasn't been productive here since 1969, as far as I know. The hot spot has since moved westward toward that old pier. I didn't learn of this till rather recently.)

But as we strolled back to our vehicle that evening, Pete remarked several times eyeing the 33-inch striper: "That's a nice fish." I guess cow-killer Pete meant to erase that frozen glum look on my face. For days I was down in the dumps after my wrong move that lost me - who knows? - the 50-pounder?

Yet, there is always what Salmon had remarked that night with a wave of his hand, as he moved into his big Volks to cook his supper: 'Well, I got to - morrow."

Tomorrow . . . And tomorrow . . . And tomorrow . . .

GREAT DAY
Cont. from page 15

we'd swamp and I'd lose all those beautiful fish. We could both swim, so that was no problem but to lose this catch would be terrible.

My friend calmly and without word or expression guided us shoreward, in a seemingly endless series of zigs and zags, intended to cheat Neptune of a horse-laugh at our expense.

At a point where we were nearing shore, by accident, we ran across the line of a pier fisherman. We hadn't seen his line, needless to say, but there it was, caught around our propeller. He hollered like hell until I cut his line "You - - - -, I hope you drown," he shouted.

"Sorry," we called back. The bum nearly had his wish come true, but didn't know it.

Well, we finally got ashore and at that point my amigo tells me he was never so scared of being swamped and never thought we'd make it back with the boat (and the fish). Only then did I realize how precarious our position had been. Well, keep the faith, I say. Didn't lose the flounder, anyway. I got 60 and Vince got 40, ranging from 1½ to 2¼ lbs. To this day, that dog insists I got 50 and he got 48. I'll never understand that guy.

Driving home that evening, we agreed that we had a little taste of everything that day – sunshine, fresh air, laughter, food, drink, action, relaxation, fish, danger, relief, and getting soaked and chilled in showers of salt-spray. Yes, it had been a fine day, a great day.

STOP POLLUTION!
Keep Our Waters Clean,

A Great Day

By STU (BAD WINDS) MILLER

TWO HUNGRIES out for flatties on a bright, clear, beautiful day in mid-April. With gear in hand, a 14 foot flat-bottomed rowboat pushed (really nudged) by an old 15 H.P. Johnson is rented from a livery on the bay in Lindenhurst. Bloodworms are the biat. Quite a few boats are on the water, as the weather is really nice. A mild south/southwesterly is blowing. My compadre wins the toss and takes the helm, leaving me as the anchor man.

We try many spots in the bay and off the flats, both anchoring and drifting, but by 11 a.m. we only have a couple of flounder apeice, perhaps in the ¾ lb. category. Much enjoyment is had, sucking that fresh, clean, clear air into our lungs. The sun warms us and we have hee-haws talking over things good friends bat around. Suddenly, we both get rapped. POW! Two large flounder are played up to the surface, and lifted over the side. We are at an edge of the State Boat Channel off Lindenhurst and we are into fish! Singles and double-headers.

My companion is wielding a 5½ ft. boat rod (glass) mounting a Penn 155. I am breaking in a new solid black glass 5 ft. lite stick, mounting an old knuckle-buster reel.

Well, we're pulling them in and having a grand old time. These were nearly all fish 1½ to 2¼ lbs., fat and sassy. To this day, I still refer to this rod as my "flounder bonanza rod."

It had been a while since we'd seen the bottoms of our pails. Now, in the midst of this flattie blitz, which lasts about 45 minutes, we do not fully notice that the southwest wind has increased considerably and a severe chop has developed. We have apick going and these fish are beauts, all thick, fat sluggers. My new rod is getting a baptism under fire.

The chap in the stern unhooks his latest fish, puts down his rod and says that it's getting rough and that we are the only small craft around. Till now, due to the action, we had not noticed that the large private and party boats that were all around earlier were now gone. These craft obviously got a meaningful weather report on their radios and beat it back to snug harbors. "We'd better to, pal," says the fellow in the stern.

"Just a while longer – the fishing is too good to leave," I reply. With a hook of resignation, he slumps down in the boat to get out of the wind.

After another 15 minutes, finally, even I am a little worried. "I think we'd better go now, Vince," I tell him. He is relieved. He is scared. Our pails are loaded with big flounder. Two pulls and the Johnson kicks over. The chop is bad and there are now swells also.

We make the westerly leg of the return run. Navigating is difficult and we run aground on sandbars twice. To get off, I get out of the boat and onto the bar and shove the boat off. I keep a sharp lookout for sholas on the rest of the westerly leg. Now we swing into the northerly leg across deep water. Shoals no longer concern us, but the south/southwest wind is causing us to ride a following sea of 2-3 foot swells, which for our midget flat-bottom boat, with castrated motor, was quite a following sea.

It was a good ¼ hour playing cat and mouse with the following sea. Fortunately, ol' Vince had logged a few hours with outboards and knew how to handle the boat in this kind of situation; that is, run parallel to the swell just before it overtakes your transom, then follow its direction once it's under the middle of your hull.

The only thing I was truly concerned about was the possibility that

Turn back to page 14

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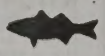
COURTSEY IS DEAD
Cont. from page 9

see them waving at you, believe me they are not calling you over to say hello. Get out of the chum line and continue off to the side if possible.

Be courteious towards the fellow who is trolling and keep away from his lines at the rear of his boat. If you plan on trolling also, troll with the traffic and not cross traffic.

I occasionally fish with a fellow who has the unique habit of finding the only boat in the ocean, and then heads for it. Other boats must have some kind of pull on him because if there is one within sighting distance, he has to investigate it and look it over. He also has but two speeds on his boat, "fast" and "stop." No matter what type of sea there is, the throttle is all the way forward and for three days afterwards my bones and muscles ache. In this instance a little thought about the comfort of his fellow passengers would be helpful.

The only thing that can bring back a new reign for courtesy is common sense. Think of how you would feel if the places were reversed and you were having it done to you as you are doing it to the other guy. Common sense can give the spark of life back to the fishing sport as it was once. 'Try it, you'll like it.' And if not, you can always take two Alka-Seltzers.



CLUB NEWS

The winner of the Squadron Angler's Ecology Scholarship Award for 1972 at Nassau Community College is William Peick of Baldwin, a biology graduate who will continue his studies at Stony Brook in September. Funds for the award came fromt he Anglers annual fishing course which is given in February and March.

TAGGED TUNA TURNS INTO A WINNING NUMBER

WOODS HOLE, MASS. – A young lady working in a Canadian tuna cannery was the winner of the first annual tuna tag lottery held by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). The drawing occurred in Madris on March 1st and the winning number came from a bluefin tuna tagged off the New England coast on August 14th, 1970, by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

The lottery capped a world-wide tagging program launched by ICCAT modeled after the Oceanographic Institution's program headed by Frank Mather. Some 4,600 tunas and billfishes were tagged throughout the Atlantic during the 1971 season.

The tagging was done by scientists and fishermen from various countries and 280 tags have been returned for $5.00 rewards. In turn, they were placed into the lottery for the $300.00 grand prize won by Miss Sangster who is employed by the fish cannery of the Canadian Tuna Co., St. Andrews, New Brunswick, where she found the tag.

The tuna was originally caught and tagged from a charter boat "Mako II" owned by Capt. Bob Linton, Saunderstown, R.I. Captain Linton has been active with the tagging program of Frank Mather since 1964. Since that time he has tagged 287 bluefin tuna and 141 of these tags have been returned to Woods Hole. The fish that won the lottery was tagged by Capt. Linton south of Block Island weighing 8-10 lbs. When it was returned from Canada the fish weighed over 20 lbs.

The objectives of the tagging program are to provide a definition of the tuna's migratory patterns and population and estimate the effects of large-scale commercial fishing of the northwestern Atlantic stock. Previous results have indicated that this stock is small and heavily exploited.

Tag returns have also revealed mass migrations of small bluefin tunas across the Atlantic in both directions. Catch statistics indicate that these migrations, which appear to occur irregularly rather than annually, have decisively affected commercial fisheries in the respective areas. The help of sport fishermen who have cooperated with the tagging programs has been invaluable in obtaining these results.

The lottery included tags collected from fish recovered by fishermen and cannery workers of Canada, Cuba, Japan, France, Ghana, Korea, the Netherlands, Senegal, Spain,t he U.S.A. and Venezuela. The project will be expanded in 1972 and it is expected that more than 10,000 tag releases will be made.

The Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution has a resident staff of more than 650 scientists and support personnel for a wide range of studies in biology, chemistry, geology and geophysics, ocean engineering and physical oceanography at the Woods Hole facilities on Cape Cod. Five ocean-going research vessels are operated by the Institution for the scientific investigation of waters around the world.

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Hudson River Report

In the midst of all the hurricane weather comes a report from Guy Parciasepe, Tournament Director for the Hudson River Striper Tournament, which ran in the first two weekends of May, announcing the winners of this contest. Bill McGuire took first place with a 14 lb. 12 oz. striper, second place went to Tony Marabito, Jr. for his 14 lb. 6 oz. catch. McGuire took third with a 13 lb. 14 oz. fish, Peter Kolininny took fourth with a 13 lb. 2½ oz. bass, and Bob Toub came in fifth with a bass weighing 8 lbs. 13 ozs. There will also be a drawing to break the tie for the most stripers tagged between Joe Conover and Bruce Scholz. Parciasepe said that nearly 300 fishermen participated and over 300 stripers were tagged. Many fish in the 20 lb. class were reported being caught throughout the tournament but none of these fish were registered properly. Prizes from the major tackle companies will be awarded to the winners.

****

CLAVERACK

Cold, wet and windy is the report from Everett Nack's Tackle Shop, and few stripers were taken during the past week. Schoolies have been hitting well on Rapalas and yellow bucktails at the Lighthouse off the Middle Ground Flats and at Roger's Island.

Nearby Lake Copake gave up a 5½ lb. largemouth bass on Saturday and Kinderhook Lake saw two hybrid "Norlunge" taken of 32" and 34", both over 10 lbs. Claverack Creek has some nice "Fat Albert" brown trout, and Nack reports that some of these beauties are over the two pound mark. Columbia Creek and the Roeliff Jansen Kill have had fair smallmouth fishing which should improve with the coming good weather.

****

KINGSTON

A whopping 7 lb. smallmouth was reported to Roy Schneider of Roy's Bait & Tackle. The fish fell to a live bait fisherman at the Wallkill Creek. Roundout Creek is another excellent spot for smallmouth and Roy says it is underfished, with many lunkers. On the Hudson, stripers are being taken on live shiners and bucktails. White perch are abundant and catfish have been averaging 3 pounds.

****

WAPPINGERS FALLS

Up until the rains, stripers were hitting well on blood and sandworms, shiners and bucktails reports Al Brenenstoul of the B & M Tackle Bait Shop. Tom Lake of New Windsor took four schoolies on Saturday up to 4½ lbs. and then topped the day off with a 17 pounder. The big striper took a sandworm cast from the beach at Cornwall.

Most of the action has been for largemouth bass at Wappingers Lake. Chester Pennfield of Poughkeepsie had a 2 pounder and Linwood McWilliams weighed in a 2½ pounder. Best lures are the Flatfish, Rebel, plastic worms and surface poppers. In the bait department, live shiners and night crawlers are producing. This lake usually gives up a few 7 and 8 pounders each season and is considered the hottest largemouth area in Dutchess County, with anglers coming from Pennsylvania and Connecticut to fish it.

****

VERPLANCK

The younger fishermen in Verplanck seem to know more than their elders when it comes to largemouth bass reports Charlie White of Ace & Charlie's Tackle. One youngster showed up at their shop with a stringer of bass, the largest going 2 lbs. 6 ozs. Lester Welson wouldn't say what he caught them on but they were caught in Lake Meaugh.

Perch and catfishing is good even with the rain but only from the beach at Georges Island and Oscawanna.

****

CROTON POINT

Bub Church of Salt Water Fly Rodders Chapter 8 had a good day with his son on the Croton River for baby stripers. A few were keepers, most were shorts, but lots of fun on the fly rod.

Richie Ferris of Croton Bait & Tackle sent one of his customers up to Garrison for stripers and Bob Diehl came back with a 13 pounder to weigh in. Larry Harris of the Bronx took four

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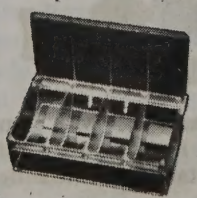

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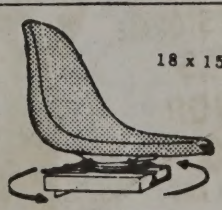

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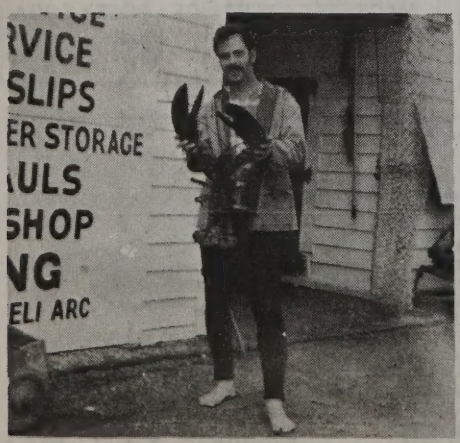
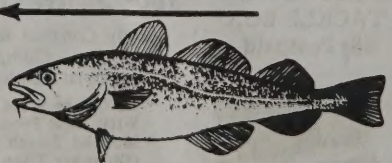
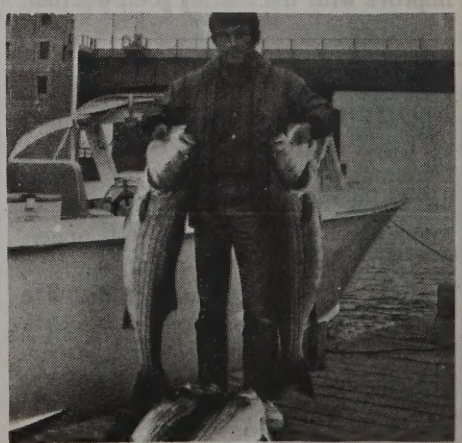


Don Mischke of Baldwin caught this 12½ lb. lobster while diving at the stone barges off Jones Inlet. Photo courtesy of Mako Marina, Freeport.



Richard Lewis of Manhattan with four stripers up to 38 lbs. Photo courtesy of Henning's Fishing Station in Atlantic Beach.



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Hudson River Report

nice largemouth at Lake Whoopee (which gets its name fromt he spawning habits of past residents) in Georges Island Park. The biggest went 4 lbs. 6 ozs. and all were taken on live shiners.

White perch are still in at Croton Point and Tellers Point.

****

OSSINING

White perch fishing has been excellent before the rains and many fishermen are surprised at the good size of the catches reports Tony's Bait & Tackle. Catfish are averaging 3 pounds. Baits are bits of bloodworm or chunks of shiner. Norm Allison of Westchester took home 2 dozen white perch from under the Tappan Zee Bridge that weighed up to 1¼ lbs. and released scores of smaller perch.

****

FORT LEE

Catfish, perch and eels are the main attraction from Piermont to Edgewater. Crabs are beginning to show - so summer is really here.

North Shore Reports

CITY ISLAND

Jack Rumpf of Jack's Bait & Tackle reported that fishing was slow last week due to poor weather conditions nad dirty water. The only action taking place was bass fishing off of Hart's Island. School bass from 4 to 6 lbs. were caught there while floating worm baits. The best part about this action is that a few bass in the 20 lb. class are mixed in. Other action at Hart's Island last week belonged to black fishermen who caught fish at a fair pace. As of yet, only scattered catches of blues have been reported.

****

BAYVILLE

Mike Pump of Pump's Fishing Station reported that poor weather conditions made fishing most impossible at times last week. "If things settle down a bit by the weekend, the Centre Island Reef should be your best bet. Blacks, weakfish and porgies are action there. Bass fishing at the Reef is just getting started for the season. Last Sunday, bass fishing finally took hold there."

****

Jeff Bieber and cousin Bruce Bieber with a few of the many mackerel they caught on Sunday, 6/2/72 off Matinecock Point.

COLD SPRING HARBOR

Milt Powles of Vets Fishing Station reported that striper fishing at the Centre Island Reef broke open last week. Bass raning from schoolies nad up to 30 pounds were caught on bucktails and spoons. Chuck Peters of Cold Spring Harbor cuaght three bass up to 22 pounds at the Reef last Sunday on spoons. Other action at the Reef last

→

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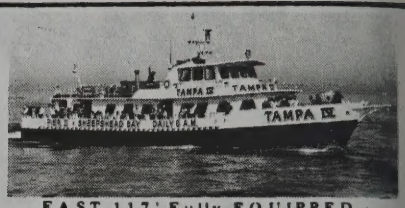

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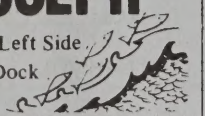

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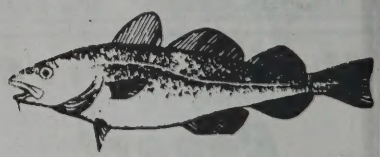

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Right Side of Dock, by Bait Station
WOMEN & CHILDREN ACCOMMODATED
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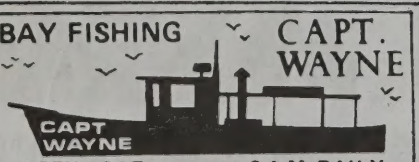
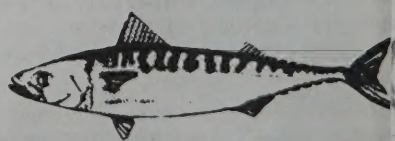
BAY FISHING CAPT. WAYNE



OPEN BOAT 8 A.M. DAILY
CAPTREE BASIN (516) MO 1-0005

SHEEPSHEAD BAY
PIER 4

ELAINE B



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SHEEPSHEAD BAY PIER 8

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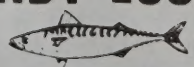

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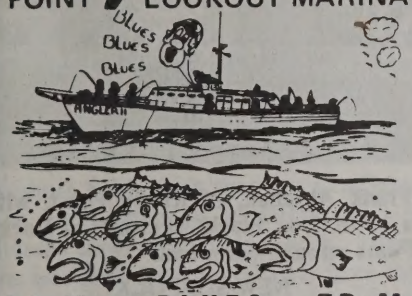

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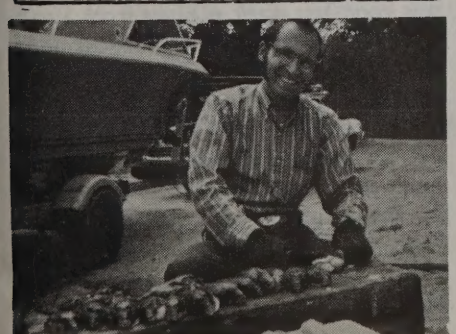

Peter Day, of the Bronx, with some blowfish, one weakfish and two fluke, caught off Sayville.

Joan Roman, of East Rockaway, with a 4½ lb. blackfish cuaght at Matinecock Point, Hempstead Harbor.

North Shore Reports

week consisted of weakfish and blackfish. "And to top off the weekend, mackerel, for some reason or another, moved back into our area."

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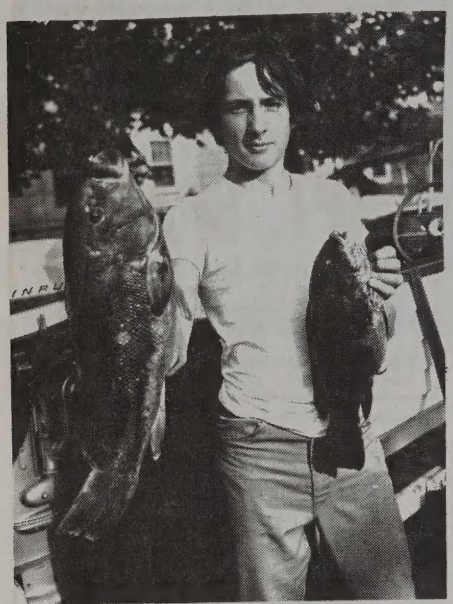
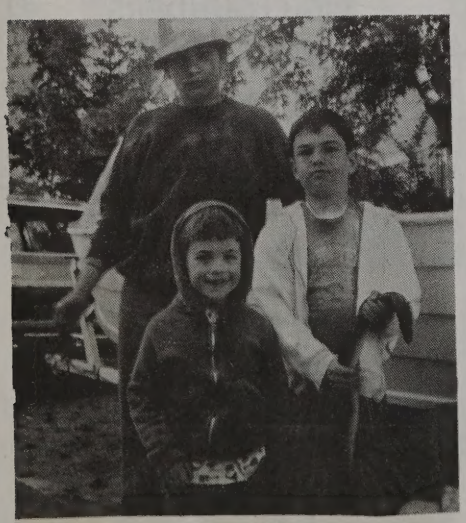


Mike Farrell, of Garden City Park, with two blackfish, the largest weighing 8¼ lbs. They were caught in Manhasset Bay.

SMITHTOWN

Lure maker, Mickey Chiarenza reported there is striped bass action near the Stony Brook Inlet. Most of the action takes place at tide changes. Eddie Hughes did well at this area on Wednesday. He caught five bass to 16 lbs. on small Tri-Fin eels and white Whip Tails.



Paul, Ricky, and Mark Schubert caught these flounder and eels in Smithtown Channel from their dad's boat the "Schube-doo."

SMITHTOWN

John Pankovcin, an active angler who fishes from Beacon On The Sound, reported that both black and weakfishing at the Mansion and the Brick Yard remains excellent. Blackfish up to 7 lbs. and weakfish from 5 to 8 lbs. are being caught there in good numbers. At the Nissequogue River, stripers are active, however, most of the fish caught there are shorts. Anglers using worms are producing the best action. The bluefish run hasn't started as of yet, however, they are expected in force within two weeks. So far only a few blues have been caught.

****

NORTHPORT

Les Bunce of the Chainlocker Bait & Tackle reports that weakfishing throughout the Northport area can't be beat. And the same goes for the excellent blackfishing at Eaton's Neck. Sea porgies are active along the shore and beach areas. Action there is fair; just pick your spot. Striper fishing for the area remains poor for the season and present action is spotty. A few blues are starting to show locally.

****

PORT JEFFERSON

Charlie of the Caraftis Fishing Station reported that school sized bass are now active in numbers at the Narrows. Anglers in this area are connecting for action while casting swimming plugs. At Old Field Point, both weakfish and blackfish are being caught in good numbers. Porgies are also mixed in at Old Field Point. Blackfishing is also good along rock jetties. A few bluefish are starting to show locally.

Capt. Joe Cash, skipper of the Port Jeff Ace, reported that on Sunday they had a sizable catch of blackfish which were taken off Rocky Point. Frank Donoski of Islip caught the largest black. It tipped the scales at 10 lbs. 1 oz. Rocky Point has a decent run of porgies also. The Port Jeff Ace is sailing every day from Port Jefferson Harbor at 8 a.m.

****

MILLER PLACE

Dick of Dick's Sporting Goods reported blackfishing remains excellent at all the rocky areas. The porgies are hitting well all along the beaches and they are good sized fish too. Kingfish have started to show. Fishermen drifting for weakfish with squid strips are picking up some fluke also. Striped bass action is good in Port Jefferson Harbor and along the Sound's beaches.

****

MOUNT SINAI

Ralph Davenport of Ralph's Fishing Station reported that blackfish and porgies are being caught at Millers Place by the lobster pots. The fishing there was quite good last week; even a few sea bass were mixed in. Weakfish and small bass are active along beach areas. There have been no reports of blues as of yet.

****

Frank Abrahall, of Rocky Point, with a 10 lb. 1 oz. blackfish caught at Rocky Point on sandworm bait.

NEW SUFFOLK

Phil Loria of Captain Marty's Fishing Station reported that both weak and porgy fishing south of Buoy 22 was very good last week. Cliff Brown of Manhattan caught over 150 medium sized porgies there last Sunday. Fred Anders and Kenneth Adam of Jersey City bagged 56 weaks on grass shrimp along the same area last weekend. Bass of schoolie size are active along the North Race. Blackfishing is holding strong at Buoy 22. A few blues are starting to show locally.

****

SOUTHOLD-ORIENT POINT

Peter Lieblein of the Port of Egypt Fishing Station was pleased to report that blues are in at Buoy 17. Action was good last week as blues from 3 to 5 pounds were caught on 6 oz. diamond jigs. The best bluefish action has been coming during the incoming tide. Along the northwest side of Buoy 17, porgies up to 2 bls. are being cuaght at a moderate pace. Weakfishing at Buoy 16 and sotuh of Buoy 18 was fair last week. For some reason or another, striper fishing remains slow for the season.

****

South Shore Reports

MONTAUK

Capt. Les Behan, skipper of the Peconic Queen, reported that the codfishing at Coxes Ledge has improved since the storm. The area is loaded with big fish and it's better now than it's been in several years. Frank Siefert of Pennsylvania had 22 cod up to 47 lbs. Fred Snyder, also of Pennsylvania, caught eight cod up to 49 lbs.

Capt. George Glas, skipper of the Hel-Cat, reported that blues have moved into the Race in sufficient numbers for them to fish exclusively for them, starting this weekend. What makes this bluefishing so unique is that it requires no chumming and no trolling; just a long drift through the area with cut bait. The Hel-Cat will sail at 6 A.M. daily.

Capt. Paul Sundberg, skipper of the charter boat Montauk, reported that offshore fishing for sharks is excellent. The area known as Butterfish Hole is literally crawling with blue shark. "Over the weekend we had a charter from the Anaconda Copper Co. of upstate New York. They caught seven blue sharks from 50 to 140 lbs. Locally, the bass and blue fishing has picked up. Fishermen find action on these fish from the Point to the Midway Buoy."

Al Giglio of the Babylon Post Office, his brother-in-law Charlie Hill of Lindenhurst, and Don Sisco of Bennie's Pizza of West Babylon caught 53 cod, pollack and hake in the 30 lb. range while fishing aboard Capt. Paul Forsberg's Viking Star out of Montauk. They were anchored in 210 feet of water 110 miles out over a recently discovered virgin wreck. The 36 fishermen aboard the Viking Star boated over 12,000 lbs. of fish, with the pool going to a 66 lb. cod. After four hours of fishing there was no room to walk the deck, reported Al. Over 40 Russian fishing boats were seen on this trip with perfect weather, with little wind or tide (June 18). A great and unbelievable time was had by all. said Al, and everyone carried off 40-50 lbs. of fish in their bags.

Capt. Paul Forsberg, skipper of the Viking Star, reported that their last Nantucket trip was fantastic. After fishing 3½ hours, the anglers were ready to go home. It was impossible to count them as there were tons of them. The cod were in the 35 to 40 lbs. class. They also had 75 pollack and 20 large hake. Capt. Forsberg said he has seen just about everything in a cod's stomach but managed to see something new. "I saw one spit up an octopus of about 10" long." The codfishing at Coxes Ledge has improved a great deal. The catches are getting better every day. On Thursday, 6/20, 17 anglers had 187 cod and pollack. The pool winner was Fred Compell of Brooklyn with a 51 lb. cod.

****

SAG HARBOR

Helen Jacobsen of the Noyac Marina reported some fair bluefishing at the Ferry Slip. Rick and Al Romatowski of Sag Harbor had excellent catches of blues both on Sautrday and Sunday. They limited themselves to only a few for the freezer, the rest they returned to the water. Weakfishing remains good off the Monestary. Most boats plying this area get at least 12 to 15 fish.

****

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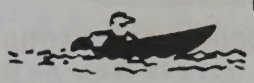

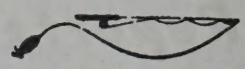

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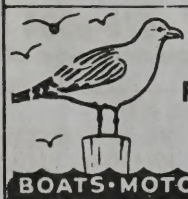

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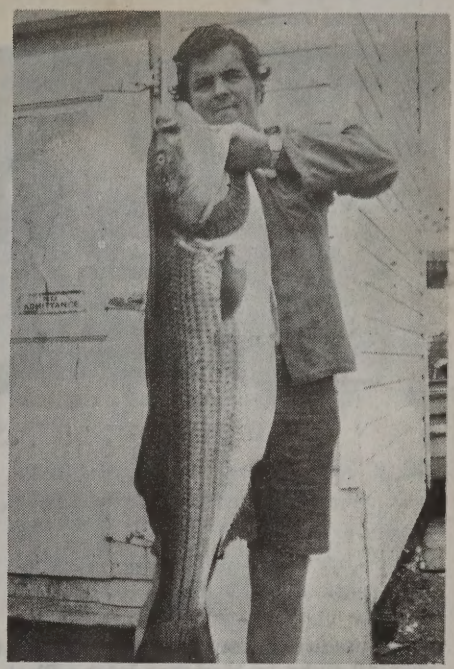

Walter Yackel of Maspeth with a 49¾ lb. striper caught off the Atlanitc Highlands, N.J. on an umbrella rig.

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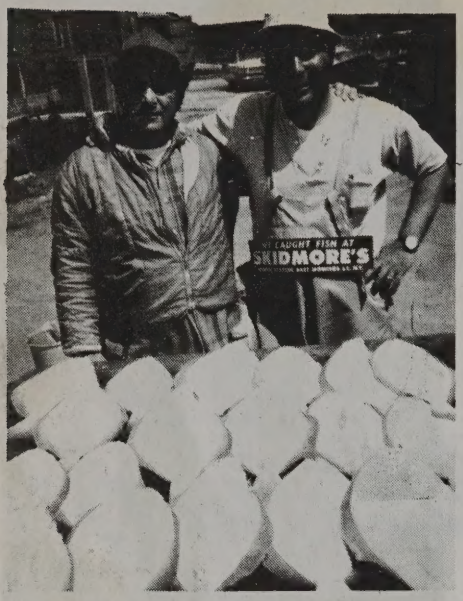
South Shore Reports



Luis Rosado and Tony Provenzano caught over 40 fluke in Moriches Inlet. Photo courtesy of Skidmore's Fishing Station.

SHINNECOCK

Capt. Clark Bellows reports both boats (Capt. Clark and Capt. Clark II) are doing an excellent job on the weakfish. The two hot spots are Robins Island and just east of Nassau Point. "Anglers aboard our boats average about 18 to 20 weakies apiece. Of course, there are fishermen that get more. The weaks run as high as 4 lbs., but the average size run about 1½ to 2 lbs. Some kings and porgies have started to show."

HAMPTON BAYS

Ernie Berhle of Bradley's Fishing Station reported there is plenty of fluke action all over Shinnecock Bay. Ernie gives this point of info to anglers who don't bring along a ruler to measure their fluke catches. A life cushion (given to anyone who rents one of his boats) is 14¾" long, so if a fisherman has any doubt as to the size of their fish, just lay it alongside a cushion.* Weakfishing is spotty and the main body of these fish seems to be around Robins Island.

* *Editor's Note: See Page 11.*

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MORICHES

John Savino of the Cerullo Bros. Fishing Station reported that fluke fishing could not be better. These summer flatfish seem to prefer spearing and squid fished from a drifting boat. The new cut is the hot spot. Bob Bolinski of Queens caught 21 fluke to 4 lbs. drifting the new cut. The flounder fishing has slowed a bit.

****

MASTIC

Ronnie Keenan of Keenan's Fishing Station reported good fluke fishing at Buoys 21 to 25. The weakfishing remains excellent behind Buoy 17. 13 year old Mike Derry of Mastic connected with a 13 lb. fluke on a shiner. There is scattered bluefish action from the bridge to the inlet.

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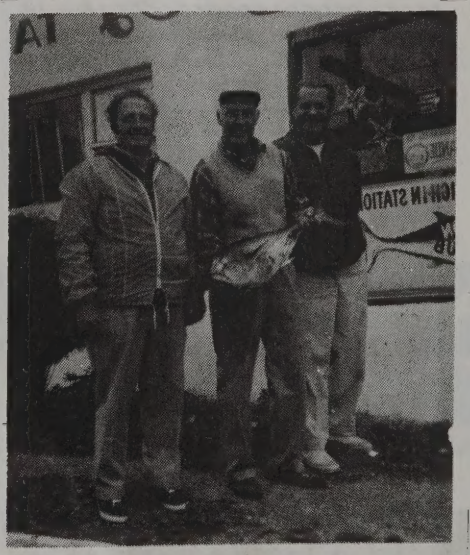
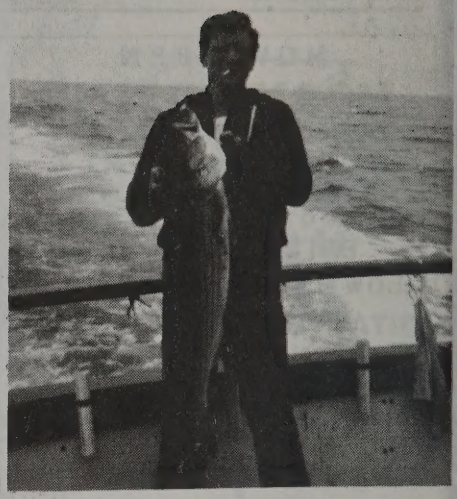


Left to right, Joe Leshin, Charles Dale (he caught the tuna) and Capt. Charles Feshette with the first tuna of the season, caught 6/14/72. Photo courtesy of Augie's Bait & Tackle, Babylon.



Bill Crogan, of Mamaroneck, N.Y., with a 26 lb. striped bass caught while fishing aboard the Capt. Joseph out of Captree.

SAYVILLE

Dennis Masterson of the South Bay Fishing Station reported that Saturday was excellent for fluke and weakfish. The latter species was excellent at Buoy 30. Joe Palankay of West Islip returned to the docks with over 50 weakies up to 4 lbs. Sunday's fishing was only half as good as Saturdays. The largest catch was 18 or 19 weaks, however, the fish were a little bigger. Salty Dog Shrimp lures and squid are your best all around baits on these weaks. Buoy 30 is the current hot spot, with Buoy 4 a close second.

****

BAY SHORE

Capt. John Bradley, skipper of the Capt. Bradley, reported excellent bluefishing at the Steamboat Channel and the yellow bar near the Coast Guard Station. "We had 30 blues to 6 lbs. on umbrella rigs and chumming."

****

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CAPTREE

Capt. Bill Joseph of the Joseph Fleet reported good fluke fishing before the storm and a bit better after the storm. Earlier in the week, an 11 lb. doormat was caught by Sol Wechsler of Brooklyn. A couple of 6 lb. blues were also caught by two anglers on the same day. Barnett Reback of Brooklyn had a 6 lb. 1 oz. blue and Felix Alexander of Little Neck caught its twin brother. Both blues were very long and looked heavier than their 6 pounds.

Capt. Frank Swanson, skipper of the Sanco, reported excellent fluke fishing since the storm. "We have been drifting from the Lighthouse to the mouth of the inlet and picking lots of fluke and some stray bluefish. The blues are mixed sizes, ranging from 2 pounders to slammers of 8 lbs. and better."

Capt. John Gutman, skipper of the Angler, reported that fishing is excellent, especially the fluke. Since the storm, there has been an upswing with these fish. There are many, many shorts, but there are enough keepers to keep everyone happy. "We are getting stray blues around the Robert Moses Bridge. Weakfishing is still good to the east of the bridge."

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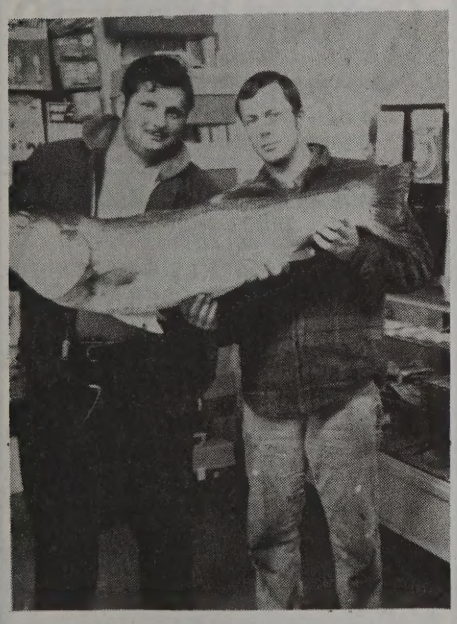

Vincent Rosati (left), of Copiague, with a 31 lb. 12 oz. striped bass caught in the State Channel at Wantagh.

Frank Ennis, of Massapequa, and Joe Topf, of Mineola, with stripers weighing 53 lbs. 2 ozs., 37½ lbs., 33¼ lbs. and 28¼ lbs. Photo courtesy of Kwak's Tackle Shop.

BABYLON

Walter Schmidt of the Babylon Fishing Station reported good fluke fishing at the Snake Hill Channel, west of the Robert Moses Bridge and in the State Channel between East Fox Creek and the Babylon cut. Weakfishing continues to be good just east of the Captree Bridge. There are plenty of sea robins around for anyone who wants them. Blowfish are very few and far between.

****

WEST BABYLON

Charlie Crowley of Charlie's Fishing Station reported that fluke fishing could not be better. For every five fluke cuaght, only one is a keeper. These fish are right in the bay in the East-West Channel. Vince Barth of Levittown had 37 keepers to 4 pounds at this area on Sunday. Weakfishing has dropped off. There is some excellent kingfishing in the bay. Blowfish are not around in any numbers.

****

SEAFORD

Dell's Fishing Station reported excellent bass fishing under the bridges. Clam chummers are picking up some decent sized fish. Mr. Costa and 8 year old son caught two stripers to 14 lbs. chumming under the 3rd bridge. The 14 pounder was caught by the 8 year old angler. Flukd fishing is excellent all over the bay. Joe Lotito of Levittown caught 14 fluke to 3 lbs. Warren Leopold of Wantagh had 8 fluke but only two were keepers.

****

FREEPORT

Capt. Richie Kessinger, skipper of Capt. Jack's Star Stream, reported they are going to try for bluefish this coming weekend. "There is some good action at the Klondike Banks, just east, southeast of Manasquan. We are anticipating good bluefishing at this area."

****

WANTAGH

Frank Hecker of the Causeway Bait & Tackle reported that chumming with shrimp at the 2nd bridge was producing weakfish from 2 to 3 lbs. each. Along the edges of the channel anglers are taking fluke by using sand eels, spearing and killies. Frank mentioned that blues up to 9 lbs. were taken while anglers were trolling for fluke. The 2nd and 3rd bridges are producing bass for two anglers that Frank knows of. Bill Lictenstein of Bellmore landed a 39 pounder; he was chumming at the time. Charles Glickman took a 30½ pounder with an Alou Eel. This action was reported as taking place at night.

POINT LOOKOUT

Capt. Art White, skipper of the Angler II, reported bluefish up to 14 lbs. were caught over the weekend. "We fished the area around Cholera and hooked into some real good sized blues. The main schools (4 and 5 pounders) are still to the south off the New Jersey coast. I think we should see these fish in our area by this weekend."

Marilyn Wardle of Ed's Fishing Station reported that fluke fishing is fantastic all along Reynolds Channel. "Some of my customers are coming back to the docks with above average catches of these summer flatfish. John Reidlinger and Mac Mapes of West Hempstead had 28 good sized fluke and one bluefish which they caught in Reynolds Channel on squid and spearing.

****

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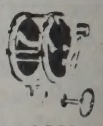

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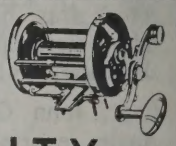

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FISH FACTS

EYESIGHT

Most fish can see fairly well at short range. Because their eyes have a fixed pupil, they tend to see best at dawn and dusk or on overcast days without glare, and often feed accordingly.

COLOR

Color is important in fishing lures, but less important than lure presentation and action. To the fish, motion rather than color brings the suggestion of a meal. Color as a supplement can clinch the sale.

N.Y. Bight

By Greg Beacher

ATLANTIC BEACH

Leon Miller of Henning's Fishing Station reported that fluke fishing at Atlatnic Beach is still holding strong. Boats drifting along Reynolds Channel are catching as many as 8 to 13 fluke per boat. Toni Ruvolo and John Fereshetian of the Bronx caught 24 fluke up to 3¾ lbs. last weekend while fishing the Channel. Ken Holland and Harry Fauser of Far Rockaway bagged 18 fluke at the Channel last Sunday. Al Monaco, of the Atlantic Beach Rod & Gun Club, produced a winning fluke of 10 lbs. 4 ozs. last Sunday. He took first place during the club's contest. Al's doormat was caught between buoys 8 and 10 of Reynolds Channel, aboard Arthur Newman's Ronnie Donnie.

Harry Greenstein of Brooklyn fished the Beach 19th Jetty last Sunday and caught the largest bass of the season there. Harry's fish was taken on a clam bait while he was fishing off of the rocks. The striper hit the scales at 30 pounds. Other action at Atlantic Beach can be found along beach areas as blues are starting to show. Between Atlantic Beach and Long Beach, in 30 ft. of water, weakfish up to 5 lbs. are around to be caught. At the bridge itself, it's blackfish and moderate action for clam chummers.

****

JAMAICA BAY

John Brando of Cross Bay Rod & Gun reported that last week's storm didn't help the fishing locally. At any rate, by the time you read this report, fishing should be back to normal. Fluke are active at the Marine Parkway Bridge. Fish up to 2½ lbs. are being caught there at a moderate pick. Weakfish are starting to cooperate by Kennedy Airport. Last Sunday, anglers fishing there caught a bag full of weaks up to 3 lbs. Bass fishing is producing action most everywhere throughout Jamaica Bay. Just find your favorite spot, bait your hook and give it a try.

****

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Niel Lauro of Stella Maris Fishing Station gave me a special call last Sunday to relay up-to-date Jersey striper catches by local anglers. Allen Stark and Bob Capoziello of Brooklyn caught seven lunker bass while fishing fresh bunker baits at Sandy Hook last Sunday. All seven fish were trophy catches, scaling 47 , 39 , 31 , 34 , 31 and 28 lbs. Donald Ambrico, of the Kings Bay Striper Club, showed how fresh bunker catch lunker bass. Again, this action took place last Sunday at Sandy Hook. Donald boated four stripers scaling 43, 37 , 39 and 32 lbs. Locally, Joe Lee, Jr. of Brooklyn located bass action at Rockaway Jetty. He trolled eight school size bass from 3 to 6 pounds on surgical tubes and bucktails.

At Manhattan Beach, Ambrose Channel and beach areas off the Rockaways, fluke are being caught at a good pace. Last weekend, the best fluke catches were recorded off of Manhattan Beach. Fluke up to 4 lbs. were caught, with boats averaging up to 8 fish per boat. There is other action at Rockaway Jetty: Fishermen bouncing sinkers are producing some good catches of blackfish and sea bass.

Blues have moved a bit closer to home. Last week party boats achieved the best bluefish action of the season at the Klondike. Anglers averaged from 3 to 6 fish per man, with blues from 5 to 12 lbs. being caught. With each passing day, bluefish action is mounting. It won't be long before party boats from Sheepshead Bay start bluefishing both day and night.

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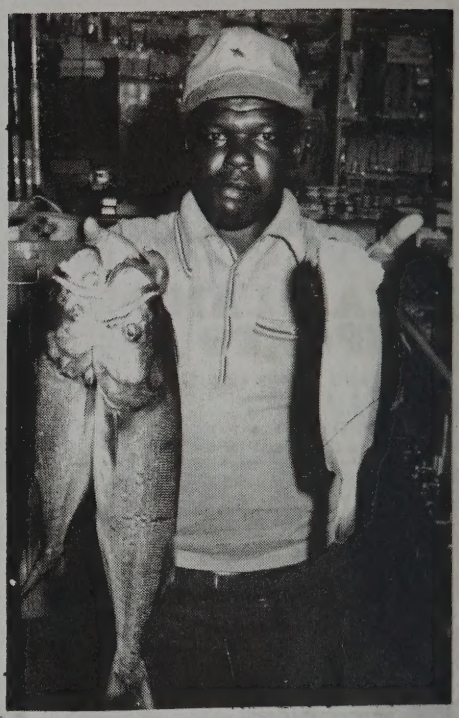

Al MacArthur with two blues up to 3 lbs. and a 2 lb. fluke, caught at Annadale Beach. Photo courtesy of Santo's Sport Shop, Staten Island.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny Killoran of Santo's Sport Shop reported that fishing was on the slow side last week. At Great Kills Park, there's a mixture of fish to be caught. Small bass, fluke, a few blues and a few weakfish are around to be caught. Next week should being a better report for things should get back to normal following last week's storm.

****

SANDY HOOK

For the last two weeks now, lunker bass up to 50 lbs. were and still are being caught at Sandy Hook. Action can be located anywhere from the Hook and south towards the Highlands. A few stripers are being caught on surgical tube lures and bunker spoons, however, the main action belongs to anglers fishing fresh bunker baits. To prove just

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how good the action was last Sunday, boats were able to catch from 2 to 5 bass on the average with bunkers, despite the large amount of boats fishing there over the weekend. For the guys who can break away during the week between Monday and Thursday, bass action at the Hook should be at its peak.

The boats that are not bass fishing at the Hook are finding fluke fishing rewarding. Fluke up to 4 lbs. are being caught along beach areas. By this coming weekend, fluke fishing throughout the area should produce even better action and larger fish. Schools of blues have been spotted. They're getting thick enough where boats chasing birds are locating blues on top, and where blues are starting to hit jigs and bucktails. At the Shrewsbury Rocks, it's still blackfish and sea bass.

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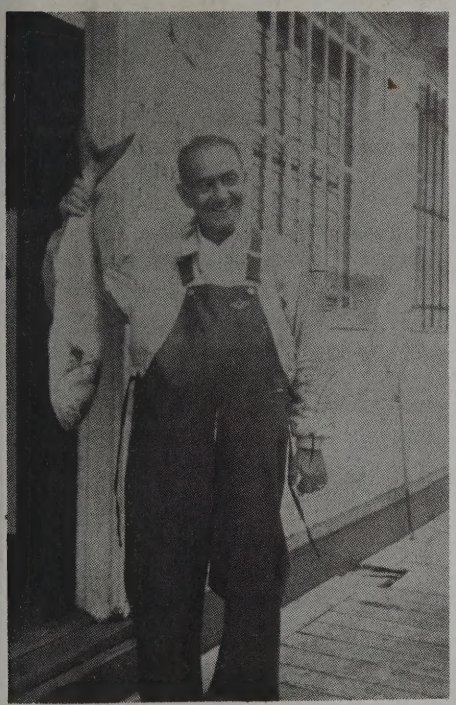
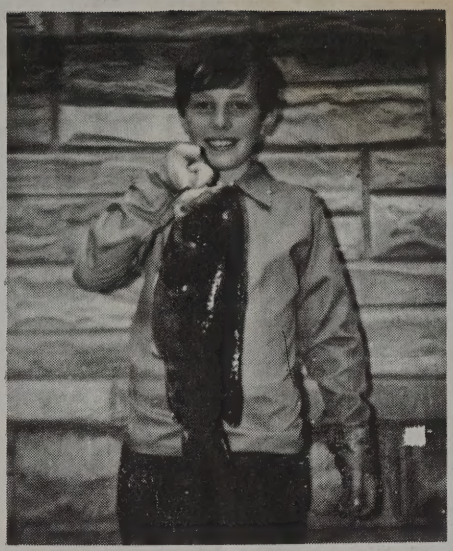


Irving Kaplan, of the Bronx, with a 7 lb. 4 oz. bluefish caught in Woodmere Channel. Photo courtesy of Henning's Fishing Station, Atlantic Beach.

SHARK RIVER

Capt. Al Shinn of the Miss Belmar was pleased to report that bluefishing has reached a steady pace, as anglers are connecting for average action. Nothing hot yet, but blues are active at Monster's Ledge, the Klondike and Manasquan Ridge. So far, blues from 3 to 12 lbs. are being caught by party boats fishing either day or night. It won't be long before the bluefishing explodes offshore. Locally, both blues and bass are active at the inlet and surf areas. Fluke fishing off of the beach



Nine year old Louis Iaconetti holding a 6½ lb. blackfish, caught at the Cross Bay Bridge in Rockaway.

was off to a good start, however, last week's storm churned everything up and the waters became too dirty. As soon as inland waters clear up a bit, fluke fishing should bounce back.

****

MANASQUAN

Capt. Howard Bogan of the Jamaica reported that blues from 4 to 10 lbs. are being caught in good numbers by party boats fishing day or night at Barnegat Ridge. Anglers are averaging from 3 to 20 blues per man. Despite last week's storm, bluefishing remained very good at the Ridge. The Jamaica II is sailing for tilefish at the Hudson Canyon. A simple report from this area would be excellent fishing. This coming July 4th and 31st, the Jamaica II will be sailing offshore for two special cod and pollack wreck fishing trips. There are openings; call for info and reservations.

Victor Conrade of Gates Bait & Tackle reported that local fishing inshore was slow over last weekend. Along the surf, bass were caught at only a fair pick. At the canal, bass fishing during the early morning and late afternoon hours is producing fish. Both blue and weakfishing along the beach was also slow last week. The best action locally was the blackfishing at the inlet. Good action was had by party boat fishermen offshore with ling, sea bass and blackfish.

****

OPEN CLASSROOM

On Thursday, June 1, 1972, 40 students and 5 chaperones from Thomas Edison Vocational & Technical High School embarked on a brief ocean voyage aboard the Captain Sandy out of Captree. The excursion was sponsored by the Health & Physical Education Department and Student Activities as an "open classroom" with life sports; it just looked like a fishing trip.

The fish didn't have a chance.

Almost 500 flounders, fluke, sea robins, and bluefish were cuaght, but many fish were released (in keeping with the restriction concerning size).

Eventually, the pool was won by Assistant Principal, A. DeMeo, who happily landed a big bluefish.

This is one class where the emphasis wasn't on grades or tests. Everyone who was lucky to attend was anxious to do it again - - even the teachers.

Bob Stekel, anxious teacher
Health Education Dept.

SHINNECOCK SWORDFISH TOURNAMENT

Due to poor weather and sea conditions in the Shinnecock area, the 9th annual Shinnecock Swordfish Tournament scheduled for this past weekend (June 23, 24, 25) has been postponed until this coming Saturday, Sunday, and Monday; July 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.

The fleet will sail each day from fleet headquarters at Nick's Marina in Hampton Bays at 7 a.m. Fishing begins each day at 8 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m., except on Monday when fishing ends at 3 p.m. Awards and trophies will be presented on Monday at 6:30 p.m.

CONNECTICUT SCENE

BY

DICK ALLEY

Water, water everywhere. At this writing, we've had enough, and if this column seems confusing at times, it's due to frequent interruptions while I run to the basement to check on the pump. With all the rain, thoughts of angling would be irrelevant to some, but in Long Island Sound, there are fish to be caught.

In Westport, Ed Boland tells of Steve Czinski, who landed a 20 pounder on mackerel fishing Penfield Reef. Another un-named angler recorded a catch of eight stripers to 22 lbs. at Sunken Island. Westport firefighter, Mike Gilbertie took five stripers on worms at Cockenoe Island, drifting rather than trolling. Between storms, Mike Perotelli and Bill Sargent tallied an even dozen to 14 lbs. on worms in the Norwalk Islands.

In neighboring Norwalk, Bruce and Rick Mola ran out between the raindrops, and Bruce connected with a 27 pound lunker. School bass have been coming in steadily from Calf Pasture, both off the pier, and near the Coast Guard Station. Lou DiScalza scored with a 21½ lb. fish. Lee Andrews and Elaine Ayres tallied several to 14 lbs.

In Greenwich, bass anglers again come out on top. Cy Bria was high hook, sneaking out between storms to snag a 37 pounder, backed by a fish of 28 pounds. Jay Palmer took a triplet of weaks, the largest going five pounds, while his fishing partner, John Sargent hit a fourteen pound bass. Lots of fish scattered through the teens in these waters.

Charlie Ferris of Milton Point Bait & Tackle in Rye called during the storm to tell of some good catches in Westchester waters. Rick, Judy and Marc Hanson tallied eight linsiders, scaling 8 to 17 lbs., all on the pencil popper. Dany Catalano, reputed lunker bass man, took a 32 lb. fish, while Joe Marchese grabbed a 4 lb. 2 oz. weakfish on a sidewinder. They were taken off the American Yacht Club.

Chris Hanson called from the Westport Tackle Shop early in the week to tell of a fish caught from his boat. It was a 27 pound trophy, and the first striper ever for him. He caught the bass on a frozen chunk of mackerel.

In New Haven, Walt passes on the word that a couple of more bluefish were taken from the West Haven Savin Rock Beach. Blackfishing here is still terrific. There's a run of bass on fiddler crabs, according to sales of the bait.

The mate from the party boat Blackhawk, out of Waterford, reported the best day ever last weekend, with double headers on cod and pollack all day long, fishing the Shark's Ledge area.

Paul Caruso, of the Tackle Box in Meriden, with his first striper of the year, taken from the Connecticut River. The catch weighed 15 lbs.

In Meriden, Paul Caruso, owner of the Tackle Box, sends along the proof that bass are hitting in the Connecticut River. He took a fifteen pounder on the 5½ inch Rebel, using 8 lb. line and a one-handed rod. He says there are loads of school bass in the Terramar "Dock and Dire" area.

Hope Bard is the newest, and more than likely, the prettiest skipper along the Connecticut shoreline. She'll be piloting the Capt. Bob out of Centerbrook, Conn. for all those big blues this season.

Capt. Steve Basil, of Pisces Charter Inc., passes on the happy news that pretty Hope Bard now has her skippers ticket, and will be running the group charter boat Capt. Bob. I understand she's as good a fisherman as she is attractive.

Continued Next Page ⟶

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